



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE
STATE OF LOUISIANA

BULLETIN NO. 03-04

TO: All Licensed Health Insurers, HMOs and Third Party Administrators

FROM: J. Robert Wooley, Commissioner of Insurance

RE: Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act—
Transactions and Code Sets Standards

DATE: October 24, 2003

As you are aware, the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act ("HIPAA") requires that all covered transactions must comply with transactions and code sets standards for format and content. The deadline for compliance with this section of the Act was October 16, 2003.

Some covered entities may not have met the October 16, 2003 deadline for submitting compliant claims. In an effort to avoid disruption to the health care system that could impact consumers, I encourage all health insurers to demonstrate, to the extent possible, flexibility in accepting and paying non-compliant claims. Such flexibility may be demonstrated in a variety of ways including, but not limited to, the following:

- Development of contingency plans to address non-compliant claims;
- Ad hoc work with providers to bring claims into compliance;
- Facilitating testing and exchange of HIPAA compliant transactions;
- Outreach efforts to educate providers regarding the obligations imposed by HIPAA transactions and code sets standards;
- Placement of all HIPAA transactions and code sets standards information under a special section of your website so that providers can easily access relevant information;
- Development of frequently-asked questions and responses specifically applicable to your organization and its implementation of the HIPAA transactions and code sets standards to be made available to providers;

- Prominent display of specific contact information for providers wishing to discuss HIPAA transactions and code sets requirements;
- Sharing of companion guide information with providers, to the extent possible;
- Evaluation of contracts with providers to determine if changes are warranted in response to HIPAA transaction and code sets requirements.

Although HIPAA transaction and code sets standards are established and enforced by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, my office is available to assist insurers and providers with implementation issues as appropriate in an effort to lessen the adverse impact on consumers resulting from disruption of claims and claims payments. However, affected parties are encouraged to maintain direct dialogue with each other throughout the implementation process so as to facilitate prompt resolution of problems and concerns.

**Louisiana Department of Insurance
Office of Health Insurance
225-219-4770
1-800-259-5301**

In addition, all parties impacted by the HIPAA administrative simplification standards should review information available through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services at the websites below or contact the CMS at 1-877-267-2323.

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/hipaa/hipaa2/default.asp>

http://www.eventstreams.com/cms/tm_001/launch.htm